

It is illogical to believe that we who are sinners and far from God by living on earth may perform intercessory prayer, but those in heaven who are not sinners, are in union with God; therefore, extremely close and one with God, cannot perform the intercessory prayer that great sinners, who are far from God, can perform.

1) Revelations 6:9-11

- a) When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne they cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before thou wilt judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell upon the earth?" Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.
- b) My words: The martyrs were petitioning God.

2) Revelations 5:8

- a) And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints;
- b) My words: The angels and the saints are offering the prayers of the Church to Jesus.

3) Revelations 8:3-5

- a) Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.
- i) My words: The prayers of the saints on earth were given to the angel and the prayers "went up before God **from the angel's hand**. This is proof that we can ask angels, saints, and Mary to pray for us because these prayers were given to this angel and this angel offered them up to God. These prayers did not go directly to God. God responded and answered to these prayers. The censer being thrown down to earth is the symbolic answer from God to the saints in response to their prayers.

4) 2 Timothy 1:16-18

- a) May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiph'orus, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me -- may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day -- and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

5) Matthew 18:10

- a) "See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven.

6) Hebrews 12:1

- a) Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us
 - b) St. Paul talking about the many Old Testament saints that had died before them, but that had surrounded the early Church, was watching over the early church, and witnesses of Christ to the early Church.
- 7) Hebrews 13:7
- a) Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
- 8) **2 Maccabees 12:44**
For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead.
- 9) **2 Maccabees 15:14**
And Onias spoke, saying, "This is a man who loves the brethren and prays much for the people and the holy city, **Jeremiah [bodily dead]**, the prophet of God."